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1. A method of integrating product information management with vehicle design, said method comprising the steps of

selecting a vehicle program requirement from a library stored in a memory of a computer system, wherein the library is accessed through an information portal on the computer system;

selecting an information database containing information related to the design of the vehicle from the library, wherein the information base is accessed through the information portal;

determining if the information from the information database correlates with the program requirement; and

using the information from the information base in the design of the vehicle, if the information from the information database correlates with the program requirement.

2. A method as set forth in claim 1, including the step of selecting through the information portal additional information for determining if the information from the information base correlates with the program requirement, if

5        selecting a vehicle program requirement  
from a library stored in a memory of a computer  
system, wherein the library is accessed through an  
information portal on the computer system;

selecting an information database  
10 containing information related to the design of the  
vehicle from the library, wherein the information  
database is accessed through the information portal;

determining if the information from the  
information database correlates with the program  
15 requirement; and

using the information from the information database in the design of the vehicle, if the information from the information database correlates with the program requirement.

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2. A method as set forth in claim 1 including the step of selecting through the information portal additional information for determining if the information from the information database correlates with the program requirement, if

the information from the information database does not correlate with the program requirement.

3. A method as set forth in claim 2 including the step of determining if a portion of the information from the information database correlates with the program requirement based on the additional information.

10 4. A method as set forth in claim 3 including the step of using the portion of the information from the information database that correlates with the program requirement in the design of the vehicle, if a portion of the information from  
15 the information database correlates with the program requirement.

5. A method as set forth in claim 4 including the step of selecting through the  
20 information portal additional information regarding the design of the vehicle.

6. A method as set forth in claim 5 including the step of using the additional  
25 information to determine whether to generate new information for use in the design of the vehicle and

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generating new information if determined that the new information should be generated.

7. A method of integrating product  
5 information management with vehicle design, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a vehicle program requirement  
from a library stored in a memory of a computer  
system, wherein the library is accessed through a  
10 web-based information portal on the computer system;

selecting an information database  
containing information related to the design of the  
vehicle from the library, wherein the information  
database is accessed through the information portal;

15 determining if the information from the  
information database correlates with the program  
requirement;

using the information from the information  
database in the design of the vehicle, if the  
20 information from the information database correlates  
with the program requirement;

selecting through the information portal  
additional information for determining if the  
information from the information database correlates  
25 with the program requirement, if the information from

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9. A method as set forth in claim 8 including the step of using the additional information to determine whether to generate new information for use in the design of the vehicle and  
20 generating new information if determined that the new information should be generated.

10. A method of integrating product information management with vehicle design to verify  
25 existing information, using a computer system having

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requirement if determined that a portion of the

verification information correlates with the program requirement; and

generating new information if a portion of the verification information does not correlate with  
5 the program requirement.

11. A method as set forth in claim 10 including the step of determining through the information portal if a condition is known by which  
10 the verification information was generated, if a portion of the verification information correlates with the program requirement.

12. A method as set forth in claim 11  
15 including the step of generating new verification information if the condition by which the verification information was generated is not known and using the new verification information in the design of the vehicle.

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13. A method as set forth in claim 11 including the step of determining confidence in the portion of the verification information that correlates with the program requirement if the  
25 condition by which the verification information is generated is known.

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14. A method as set forth in claim 13 including the step of performing a computer-aided engineering analysis of the verification information  
5 if not confident in the verification information.

15. A method as set forth in claim 14 including the step of using the portion of the verification information and the results of the  
10 computer-aided engineering analysis in the design of the vehicle if confident in the computer-aided engineering analysis.

16. A method as set forth in claim 13  
15 including the step of using the portion of the verification information in the design of the vehicle if confident in the verification information.